

4612

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BERWICK.



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health and Sanitary Conditions
of the County

BY

THE COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER,
FOR THE YEAR 1942.

DUNS :

Printed by Martin's Printing Works, Ltd.,
48 Market Square.



**To the Department of Health for Scotland and to the County Council
of Berwick.**

I beg to submit a summary of the work carried out by the Public Health Department for the year 1942. It includes reports by the Engineer and Sanitary Inspectors.

ANDREW A. McWHAN.

County Offices, DUNS.

10th June, 1944.

LIST OF STAFF.

County Medical Officer of Health and Administrative Officer :—Andrew Alexander McWhan, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer (part time) :—Barbara Edgecombe, M.B., Ch.B.

Ophthalmic Surgeon :—Gordon Flint, M.B., Ch.B., M.D., F.R.C.S.E.

Surgeon for Ear, Nose and Throat Cases :—Ian Simson Hall, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.E.

Dental Surgeon (part time) :—Frank G. Mackenzie, L.D.S. (resigned 18/6/42).

Health Visitors :—Jean McIntosh ; Edith Morain.

Orthopaedic Nurse :—Miss Carruthers (resigned 15th March, 1942).

Miss Hodge (appointed 24th March, 1942, resigned 27th April, 1942).

Miss Drummond (appointed 15th July, 1942).

Superintendent of Midwives :—Edith Morain.

Midwife, West District :—Nurse Dowie.

Engineer :—William Knox.

Sanitary Inspectors :—James M. M. Ferguson.

Donald B. Marquis.

County Hospital—Physician :—Lachlan G. Campbell, M.C., M.A., M.B., Ch.B.,

Matron :—Mary Ewing.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS TO VACCINATION.

These numbered 37, a rate of 11.01 per 100 births.

In 4 cases the machinery of the Vaccination Acts required to be put into operation.

HOUSING.

BUILDING BYE-LAWS.

Improvements of a minor character were approved.

HOUSES BUILT BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

2-Apt.	3-Apt.	4-Apt.	5-Apt.	6-Apt.	Total.
—	—	—	—	—	—

HOUSING (SCOTLAND) ACTS, 1925 to 1935, AND HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACTS, 1926 to 1938.*

Number of Houses Built or Reconstructed under various Housing Acts end of 1939 :—

	Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926- 1938.	Hous- ing (Seot- land) Act, 1919.	Hous- ing (Seot- land) Act, 1923.	Hous- ing (Seot- land) Act, 1924.	Hous- ing (Seot- land) Act, 1930.	Hous- ing (Seot- land) Act, 1935.	Housing Agricult- ural Population (Scotland) Act 1938.	Built by private enterprise since 1918 without financial assistance.	To
Landward part of Berwick (excluding Burghs) ...	840	—	75	85	89	39	9	107	1,
Lauder Burgh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	
Duns Burgh	7	8	1	60	64	—	—	23	
Eymouth Burgh	—	18	14	58	88	48	—	—	
Coldstream Burgh	5	12	1	38	16	12	—	2	
	852	38	91	241	257	99	9	138	1,

* The scheme of assistance under the 1926 Act which was approved by the Department of Health on 16th June, 1930, stipulated that before grant was made applicants would require to sign an undertaking that for a period of 20 years the houses would only be let to persons of the working classes.

It was not, however, until the Housing (Rural Workers) Amendment Act 1938, that the stipulation was made requiring maintenance of the houses for a period of 20 years.

The result is that in the case of houses whose owners received grant before 1938 and whose premises or the fittings of such have since fallen into disrepair they cannot be compelled to maintain them.

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) (SCOTLAND ACTS, 1926-1938.

Since the re-adoption of a scheme under this act :—

76 applications for assistance have been made.

Certificates were issued authorising grant in respect of 76 houses.

Grants have been paid by lump sum in respect of 58 houses.

Grants have been paid by instalments in respect of 2 houses.

Work has been completed on 60 houses.

Work has been commenced but not finished on 2 houses.

Amount of grant promised £6,753.

HOUSING (AGRICULTURAL POPULATION) (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1938.

35 applications for assistance have been made.

Certificates issued authorising grant in respect of 30 houses.

Grants have been paid on 13 houses.

The number of houses completed—13.

The number of houses under construction—4.

Amount of grant promised £5,120.

Amount of grant paid £2,360.

FOOD SUPPLY.

MILK.

During the year there was exercised as close a supervision as possible of milk production including a systematic inspection of registered dairy premises and methods of production as well as regular sampling of milk.

The next statement shows the progress of milk grading under the Milk (Special Designations) Order.

CERTIFIED LICENCES.

Renewed :—James Calder, Bogend, Duns—Producer's and Retailer's Licences.

Messrs. Logan & Forrest, Mersington—Producer's Licence.

New Licences :—None.

TUBERCULIN TESTED LICENCES.

Renewed :—Robert Hamilton, The Hardens—Producer's Licence.

D. S. Clark, South Laws Do.

D. S. Clark, Bellshiell Do.

Harold Cookson, Renton House.—Producer-Retailer.

New Licences :—One.

STANDARD LICENCES.

Renewed :—Laidlaw & Shiell, Ninewells Mains—Producer's Licence.

Hugh Henderson, Earlston	Do.
James Bell, Gordon	Do.
D. Tait, Magdalenehall	Do.
M. & D. Gray, Northburn	Do.
R. & J. Macdonald, Eccles Tofts	Do.

New Licences :—None. One Transfer to Mr. James Bell.

DAIRY HERDS.

Number of Certified or Tuberculin Tested Herds in County ...	6
Number of Standard Herds in County	6
Number of Non-designated Herds in County	65

In the 6 Certified or Tuberculin Tested Herds 968 animals were tested during the year, 3 reactors being found.

In the 6 Standard Herds 543 animals were clinically examined during the year, no animal was found with a Tuberculous Udder and slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order.

In the 65 non-designated Herds and exempted premises 3,570 animals were clinically examined during the year. Two were found to come within the scope of the Tuberculosis Order and were slaughtered.

Two cases reported under the Tuberculosis Order during the year were slaughtered.

Two cases of Anthrax were confirmed during 1942.

One case of Swine Fever was confirmed during 1942.

MEAT INSPECTION.

During the year slaughtering in the County was concentrated at Duns. Meat inspection continued to be carried out by inspectors of the Council.

The following shows the number of animals inspected, weights of meat condemned and number of animals concerned :—

Class of animals.	Number of Animals.			Weight in lbs. of condemned meat and offals.
	Slaughtered.	Wholly condemned.	Partially condemned.	
Cattle ...	1,072	23	165	} 21,018
Sheep ...	6,634	148	165	
Pigs ...	84	2	19	

Weight of Meat seized (including offal), 9 tons, 7 cwt., 74 lbs.

MATERNITY AND INFANT WELFARE.

BIRTHS.

Number registered (i) legitimate	...	...	...	...	309
(ii) illegitimate	...	...	...	...	25
Still Births	...	...	...	...	7

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Number of Deaths under one year of age	...	...	...	18
(of which 10 occurred within the first ten days after birth.)				
Rate per 1,000 births	...	...	...	53.89

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Number of Deaths resulting from Miscarriage or Childbirth	...	0
From Puerperal Sepsis	...	—

REPORT UNDER MIDWIVES' (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1915.

No action was found necessary.

HOME VISITATION.

	Number Visited.	Total Visits.
Infants	303	3,283
Children (1-5)	972	2,117
Expectant Mothers	724	1,012
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	1,999	6,412
Ante-Natal visits by H.V.	25	

CLINICS AND SPECIAL TREATMENT CENTRES.

During the year seven infants were examined by Dr. Flint,
School Oculist.

PUBLIC HEALTH (NOTIFICATION OF PUERPERAL FEVER AND PUERPERAL PYREXIA) REGULATIONS (SCOTLAND), 1929.

Total number of cases of (a) puerperal fever	...	...	...	—
(b) puerperal pyrexia	...	...	...	3
Total number of cases removed to City Hospital, Edinburgh,				
for (a) puerperal fever	...	...	...	—
(b) puerperal pyrexia	...	...	...	2
Number of deaths	...	...	...	—
Cases receiving Hospital Treatment.	...	...	...	3

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

There was one case.

MATERNITY HOSPITALS OR HOMES.

Eighteen cases were sent to the Royal Maternity Hospital Edinburgh.

One case was sent to Western General.

HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN.

Six cases were admitted to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh for adenoids.

CONVALESCENT HOMES BOARDING OUT, HOME HELPS.

Seven children were sent to the County Hospital at Gordon for convalescence.

MATERNITY SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1937.

161 expectant mothers took advantage of the scheme.

SCHOOL CHILDREN.
MEDICAL INSPECTION, SUPERVISION AND TREATMENT.

During the school year ending 31st July, 1942, the Health Visitors paid 412 visits to schools, examined 987 children for cleanliness, infectious or contagious diseases, paid 172 home visits in connection with these (practically all verminous, dirty or neglected children), while they paid 762 visits for other reasons, i.e., in following up cases of reported defect or in connection with the escorting of children to hospital. These were in addition to their other duties in connection with Public Health, Tuberculosis and Child Welfare.

Total number of children examined at routine inspections in school year 1941-42 :—

(a) Ordinary Schools :—

Entrants	...	...	...	...	271	
Children of nine years	...	...	...	...	279	
Children of thirteen years	...	...	...	...	255	
Children of seventeen years	...	...	...	...	23	
Total	...	...	...	...	—	828

(b) Other examinations :—

Special cases	...	...	...	...	146	
Re-Inspection by M.O.	...	...	...	...	196	
Evacuees	...	...	...	...	—
					—	342
Total examined	...	...	...	...	...	1,170

Number of individual children inspected at systematic examinations, who were notified to parents as requiring treatment (excluding cleanliness and dental caries):—

Entrants	...	...	...	...	...	115
Children of nine years	...	...	...	...	...	67
Children of thirteen years	...	...	...	...	...	109
Children of seventeen years	...	...	...	...	...	7
						<hr/> 298

PREVALENCE OF DEFECTS.

CLOTHING UNSATISFACTORY	13
-------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

FOOTGEAR UNSATISFACTORY	6
-------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

CLEANLINESS.

(a) Head—

Dirty	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Nits	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Vermin	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

(b) Body—

Dirty	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Verminous	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

SKIN.

(a) Head—

Ringworm	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Other diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

(b) Body—

Ringworm	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Scabies	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Other diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	11

NUTRITIONAL STATE.

Slightly Defective	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Bad	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

MOUTH AND TEETH UNHEALTHY	479
---------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----

NASO-PHARYNX.

(a) Nose—

(i) Obstruction requiring observation	...	...	...	27
(ii) Obstruction (probably adenoids) requiring operative treatment	...	...	...	31
(iii) Other conditions	...	...	...	2

(b) Throat—								
(i) Tonsils requiring observation	112							
(ii) Tonsils requiring operative treatment	31							
(c) Glands—								
(i) Requiring observation	113							
(ii) Requiring operative treatment	2							
EYES.								
(a) External Diseases—								
Blepharitis	10							
Conjunctivitis	2							
Corneal Opacities	—							
Strabismus	5							
Other Diseases	1							
(l <i>b</i>) Visual Acuity—								
Good	814							
Moderate	10							
Bad	4							
Recommended for refraction	32							
EARS.								
(a) Diseases—								
Otorrhoea	3							
Other Diseases	7							
(b) Defective Hearing—								
Grade I.	2							
Grade II <i>a</i>	—							
Grade II <i>b</i>	1							
Grade III.	—							
SPEECH.								
Defective Articulation	15							
Stammering	5							
MENTAL AND NERVOUS CONDITION.								
(a) Backward	5							
(b) Dull	8							
(c) Mentally Defective (Educable)	4							
(d) Mentally Defective (Ineducable)	1							
(e) Highly nervous or unstable	2							
(f) Difficulty in behaviour	—							
CIRCULATORY SYSTEM.								
(a) Organic Heart Disease—								
(i) Congenital	—							
(ii) Acquired	3							
(b) Functional conditions	25							

LUNGS.

Chronic Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	—
Suspected Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	—
Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	8

DEFORMITIES.

(a) Congenital	...	...	...	...	...	8
(b) Acquired (Infantile Paralysis)	...	...	...	...	...	—
(c) Acquired (probable Rickets)	...	...	...	...	...	14
(d) Acquired (other causes)	...	...	...	...	...	77

INFECTIOUS DISEASE 2

OTHER DISEASES OR DEFECTS 15

CLASSIFICATION OF CHILDREN ACCORDING TO DEFECT.

	Number of Children.	Percentage.
1.—Children free from defects	171	20.80%
2.—Children (otherwise free from defects) who suffer from :—		
(a) Defective vision not worse than 6/12 in the better eye with or without glasses	9	1.09%
(b) Conditions of the mouth and teeth requiring treatment	284	34.55%
(c) Both (a) and (b)	16	1.95%
3.—Children suffering from ailments (other than those mentioned in 2) from which complete recovery is anticipated within a few weeks	155	18.86%
4.—Children suffering from (or suspected to be suffering from) defect less remediable than defects specified in 2 or 3 distinguishing cases :—		
(a) Where complete cure or restoration of function (in the case of eye defect, full correction) is considered possible ...	182	22.14%
(b) Where improvement only is considered possible, e.g., without complete restoration of function	5	.61%
Total (6 without classification.)	822	100.00%

RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN OF SCHOOL AGE IN THE AREA.

Disability.	At Ordinary Schools.	At Special Schools or Classes.	At no School or Institution.	Total.
1.—Blind	—	3	—	3
2.—Partially sighted ...*				
3.—Deaf :—				
Grade 1	2	—	—	2
Grade 11a	—	—	—	—
Grade 11b	1	—	—	1
Grade 111*				
4.—Defective Speech ...*				
5.—Mentally Defective (Children between 5 and 16 years)				
(a) Eduable (I.Q. approximately 50-70) ...	5	1	2	8
(b) Inedueable (I.Q. generally less than 50) ...	2	1	4	7
6.—Epilepsy*				
7.—Physically defective (Children between 5 and 16 years) —				
(a) Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis (excluding cervical glands) ...	—	—	—	—
(b) General Orthopaedic conditions	162	—	—	162
(c) Organic heart disease	—	—	—	—
8.—Multiple defects*				

* Figures incomplete.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND CLASSES, INCLUDING OPEN-AIR SCHOOLS.

In 1942 three children were receiving education in the school attached to the Royal Blind Asylum, Edinburgh; one in the Deaf and Dumb Institution, Edinburgh, one in St. Joseph's School Rosewell, one in the Royal Scottish National Institution. Larbert and one in St. Charles, Lanarkshire.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT.

DEFECTIVE VISION.

In 1942 110 children were examined by Dr. Flint, the Council's Ophthalmic Surgeon, and spectacles or drug treatment prescribed as required. Of these, 12 were examined at Berwick-on-Tweed and 4 at Galashiels.

EAR THROAT AND NOSE.

In 1942 70 children were taken to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, by the Health Visitors on behalf of their parents, for removal of adenoids with or without removal of tonsils.

DEFECTIVE TEETH.

In 1942 1,257 children were intimated to their parents as requiring dental treatment. Out of 573 who accepted treatment, 440 were treated by the dental surgeon.

The treatment provided was as follows:—

Extractions—temporary teeth	...	...	...	...	120
Permanent	...	...	...	...	278
Fillings—temporary teeth	...	...	...	...	1
Permanent	...	...	...	...	65
Scalings, Dressings, etc.	...	...	...	...	210

CRIPPLED CHILDREN.

See under Orthopaedic Scheme.

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

Our records showed that at the end of the year there were three imbeciles, eight feeble-minded persons, three mongolians and one moral imbecile resident in the County, of whom seven were non-educable.

MINOR AILMENTS.

Berwickshire has no school clinics, and, consequently, cases which ordinarily would be treated at a school clinic have here to be admitted to the County Hospital. During the year four children were admitted for malnutrition.

FEEDING OF CHILDREN.

At the beginning of the year meals and milk were supplied to school children as follows:—

Dinners	...	...	...	...	...	50
Soup Meals	...	...	...	...	...	144
Light Meals (Cocoa)	...	...	...	...	...	42
1.—Under the “Milk in Schools” Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	873
Number of Schools supplied	...	...	...	...	...	15
2.—Not under the “Milk in Schools” Scheme (<i>i.e.</i> , Horlicks Malted Milk)	...	...	...	...	...	267
Number of Schools supplied	...	...	...	...	...	12

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

				Cases Notified.	Cases removed to Hospital.
Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	5	5
Diphtheria	...	...	...	6	6
Erysipelas	...	...	...	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	1	1
Pneumonia, Acute Primary	...	...	...	12	8
Pneumonia, Influenzal	...	...	...	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	3	3
Scarlet Fever or Scarlatina	...	...	...	134	125
Smallpox	...	...	...	1	1
Tuberculosis, pulmonary	...	...	...	15	10
Tuberculosis, non-pulmonary	...	...	...	14	6
Anterior Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	1	—
Acute Polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	1	1
Totals	...	...	...	196	167

The cases treated in the Council's Hospital during the year were as follows :—

	In hospital at midnight on 31st Dec., 1941.	Admitted during year 1942.	Cases treated during 1942.	Bed- patient days.
Typhoid Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	1	1	1
Measles	—	3	3	39
Scarlet Fever	3	125	128	4,165
Whooping Cough	—	2	2	36
Diphtheria	—	4	4	154
Influenza	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever (suspected)	—	1	1	5
Other epidemic disease	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	3	16	19	1,306
Tuberculosis of respiratory system (suspected)	1	3	4	177
Other tuberculous disease	—	4	4	160
Other infectious and parasitic disease	2	97	99	1,451

			In hospital at midnight on 31st Dec., 1941.	Admitted during year 1942.	Cases treated during 1942.	Bed- patient days.
Including Impetigo	...	...	—	6	6	160
Ringworm	...	...	—	1	1	41
Scabies	...	...	1	55	56	769
Verminous Infestations			—	6	6	20
Contacts (with smallpox)	...		—	5	5	30
Other than infections or parasitic disease	...	...	—	—	—	—
Cancer	...	...	—	3	3	71
Diabetis	...	...	—	—	—	—
Heart or other Circulatory Disease	...	...	1	6	7	452
Bronchitis	...	...	1	13	14	417
Surgical Conditions	...		—	5	5	109
Pregnancy	...	...	—	1	1	20
Other Conditions	...		3	18	21	743
Total			14	307	321	9,336

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

251 children received prophylactic injections.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Of the 29 cases of tuberculosis which were notified during the year, in 15 patients tuberculosis disease was localised in the lungs and in 14 patients elsewhere.

42 patients received institutional treatment during the year of whom 15 were already in institutions when the year began, 13 for pulmonary conditions and 2 for non-pulmonary conditions. Of the 27 admitted during the year, 20 were on account of pulmonary and 7 on account of non-pulmonary conditions. Five patients died in hospital from pulmonary disease. The year ended with 17 patients under treatment, 14 being pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary.

38 patients were X-rayed.

The number of persons with pulmonary tuberculosis known to be resident in the County at the end of the year was 42.

ORTHOPAEDIC SERVICE.

During the year four children were treated in the Princess Margaret Rose Hospital, and 216 examined in the County by Mr. Cochrane.

VENEREAL DISEASES—PREVENTION AND TREATMENT.

Nineteen patients were treated under this scheme during the year.

DIABETES—PROVISION FOR MEDICINE AND TREATMENT.

During the year 13 persons received supplies of insulin free of cost.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

The only mental services provided by the County at the end of 1942 was the provision of mental hospital accommodation at Melrose for certified patients. No provision is made or contemplated in connection with mental disability in pre-certification cases, either by way of co-ordination of existing services, by child guidance, or by out-patient treatment of early mental and functional nervous disorders.

During the year 15 rate-aided patients belonging to the County of Berwick were admitted to the institution; 105 rate-aided persons were in residence at the end of the year. These figures are exclusive of private patients.

SICK POOR.

During the year 1942 the following numbers of Sick Poor received medical treatment:—

	Males.	Females.	Children.	Total.
(a) Persons who received out-door medical relief in the Council's area	49	94	15	158
(b) Persons who received medical treatment under the Poor Law in (1) The Council's institutions, including combination institutions, in which the Council has a share ...	2	7	—	9
(2) other, including voluntary, institutions	—	—	—	—
Totals	51	101	15	167

HOSPITAL SERVICES.

The next statement shows the number of patients sent to hospital under the County schemes and the numbers sent to each hospital.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

County Hospital, Gordon	...	...	...	...	9
Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh	...	...	...	...	6
Royal Maternity Hospital, Edinburgh	...	...	...	...	18
Galashiels Hospital	...	...	...	...	2
					35

TUBERCULOSIS.

County Hospital, Gordon	...	...	...	...	20
Bangour	...	...	...	...	35
					55

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

County Hospital, Gordon	...	...	...	...	130
City Fever Hospital, Edinburgh	...	...	...	...	11
Sanderson Hospital, Galashiels	...	...	...	...	4
Berwick Fever Hospital	...	...	...	...	6
Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh	...	...	...	...	1
					152

EDUCATION.

Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh	...	...	...	...	70
County Hospital, Gordon	...	...	...	...	19
Princess Margaret Rose Hospital for Crippled Children, Edinburgh	...	...	...	...	4
Royal Blind Asylum, Edinburgh	...	...	...	...	3
Deaf and Dumb Institution	...	...	...	...	1
St. Joseph's, Rosewell	...	...	...	...	1
Royal Scottish National Institution, Larbert,	...	...	...	...	1
Peel Emergency Hospital	...	...	...	...	4
St. Charles, Carstairs	...	...	...	...	1
					104

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

Turns out	631	
Mileage	33,531	
Patients carried	1,018	
	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Patients.</i>
Infectious Disease cases accounted for ...	8,899	325
Tuberculous cases	2,358	60
Other Diseases	3,094	140
Evacuees	337	16
Service Cases	978	32
Education cases	1,821	168
Child Welfare cases	3,339	56
Orthopaedic cases	1,280	83
Public Assistance cases	582	11
Blind cases	—	—
Private cases	8,897	117
Other runs	1,572	—
Lumberjacks	374	10
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	33,531	1,018

Of these figures, 258 turns out, 349 cases and 13,437 miles were taken by Red Cross Ambulance.

BLIND PERSONS ACT, 1938.

The number of persons on the Blind Roll at the 31st December, 1942, was 28. Four new cases were added during the year, and one was taken off the roll.

During the year 187 visits were paid by Miss Campbell, visitor of the Society for Teaching the Blind in their own homes, and in addition 55 visits were paid by the Health Visitors.